

MEETING SUMMARY

REGIONAL LAW, SAFETY AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE (RLSJC)

Thursday, July 28, 2011

7:30 AM – 9:00 AM

In Judge Bonner's absence, King County Prosecutor, Dan Satterberg, chaired this meeting of the RLSJC.

SCORE Jail Update – Penny Bartley

Penny Bartley, SCORE Director, updated RLSJC members on the status of the SCORE jail. Ms. Bartley's PowerPoint presentation can be found at the RLSJC website:

www.kingcounty.gov/operations/budget/rlsjc.

- SCORE – South Correctional Entity – is an independent governmental entity, created by the South County cities of Auburn, Burien, Des Moines, Federal Way, Renton, SeaTac and Tukwila, for the purpose of providing jail bed space for member cities.
- In response to the 2001-02 crowded jail conditions and request from King County to remove city misdemeanants from County jails by 2012, cities analyzed options and enlisted consultant Ricci Greene to study alternatives. SCORE cities did a jail feasibility study in 2007; planning and site selection in 2008; and design, financing, permitting and groundbreaking in 2009. Construction began in 2010. SCORE will open the new jail facility in September 2011.
- The SCORE facility was designed to be full service, including medical and mental health services (provided through contract), and to be flexible in usage.
 - The facility will have 813 beds in two large housing units, each divided into eight sections.
 - The facility is designed with specific areas designated for administration, ITR, medical/infirmar, housing and support.
 - The PowerPoint includes a facility design and multiple pictures of the facility.
- 2012 rates are \$125/day for “guaranteed beds” (contracts with a guaranteed floor of beds to be paid for regardless of whether used) and \$135/day for “space available” beds. There are no booking or specialty bed surcharges. Rates for 2013 forward will be tied to “member city” rates. For 2013, the rates will be 11 percent above the Member rate for guaranteed beds, and 20% above the Member rate for space-available beds.
- SCORE has invited criminal justice agencies to a “Criminal Justice Partners Day” on Thursday, August 11th from 10:00 AM – 2:00 PM. This will be an opportunity to tour the new facility.

Regional Jail Planning Group – Diane Carlson and Claudia Balducci

Diane Carlson provided an overview and comparison of the Jail Administration Group (JAG) and the Regional Jail Group (RJG). Claudia Balducci reviewed the structure, governance and work plan for the RJG. The handout materials can be found at

www.kingcounty.gov/operations/budget/rlsjc.

- JAG, formed in 2003, consists primarily of policy staff from King County and 36 County cities, which were party to the contract for County jail beds. The purpose for King County was to administer and manage the contract. For the cities, the purpose extended beyond issues related to the King County contract, to include the Yakima contract, administering the JAG property and planning for the cities' future jail needs.
- The RJG formed in 2011 and includes both operational and policy staff from King County, all 39 County cities, SCORE and the Washington State Department of Corrections (DOC). The goal is to address regional jail issues cooperatively, including efficient use of jail capacity, understanding jail trends, and long-term planning for regional jail capacity needs. The RJG has met three times and developed a 2011 work plan, which is included in the handout.

King County Jail Update – Claudia Balducci

Claudia Balducci, Director of King County Adult and Juvenile Detention (DAJD), reviewed the changes in King County's approach to regional jail space issues.

- In the early 2000s, detention populations were on the rise, there was a jail space crunch with all jurisdictions looking to increase capacity, and the County asked cities to remove their misdemeanor populations for County jails by 2012 to make way for projected increases in County-responsible felony and unincorporated-areas misdemeanants.
- Since then, crime rates and related jail populations have declined significantly, alternatives to detention programs have been implemented, and the SCORE cities have provided additional regional jail space.
- With available jail bed space, King County has been in contract negotiations with cities and is participating in regional activities to resolve jail issues and plan for meeting future regional jail capacity needs.

DAJD has revised its population forecast model from a major 5-year forecast to an annual population forecast that will provide improved and current forecasts of jail populations.

King County has just completed contract negotiations with the City of Seattle and continues negotiations with other County cities for extended contracts. DAJD also continues to partner with the DOC for jail bed space.

A major trend DAJD has identified is the significant increase in the jail's psychiatric population, particularly for those inmates who require special housing and security due to their mental health issues. Historically, special psychiatric housing average daily population (ADP) has ranged from 40-45. In recent months, this population has grown to the ranges of 80-100 ADP.

Another indicator of jail population trends is that ADP has continued to decline. Jail bookings are expected to stay lower than historical actual; however, average length of stay (ALOS) has increased. The result is fewer people staying longer.

City of Seattle Jail Update – Catherine Cornwall

Catherine Cornwall, Seattle Central Budget Office, covered key milestones related to meeting the City of Seattle's misdemeanor jail bed needs, from 2002 through the recent contract negotiations with King County for an extended contract through 2030. Ms. Cornwall's handout can be found at www.kingcounty.gov/operations/budget/rlsjc.

Ms. Cornwall outlined the new agreement with the County, which will include a guaranteed (and gradually increasing) number of misdemeanor jail beds for Seattle; a minimum bed commitment; methodology for predictable fees; a convenient Downtown Seattle location for the City's criminal justice agencies; and agreement to contribute a portion of capital costs for expanded jail capacity, if it is required in the future.

Seattle's misdemeanor population has dropped 45 percent over the last 10 years. King County's jail population has also declined during this time. As a result, King County now has sufficient capacity to continue contracting with cities well beyond 2012.

Other Committee Business

None.

